

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 as follows:

Although conventional PCR methods in conjunction with FRET technology can be used to practice the methods of the invention, in one embodiment, a LightCycler™ instrument is used. A detailed description of the LightCycler™ System and real-time and on-line monitoring of PCR can be found on Roche's website [[at <http://biochem.roche.com/lightcycler>]]. The following patent applications describe real-time PCR as used in the LightCycler™ technology: WO 97/46707, WO 97/46714 and WO 97/46712. The LightCycler™ instrument is a rapid thermal cycler combined with a microvolume fluorometer utilizing high quality optics. This rapid thermocycling technique uses thin glass cuvettes as reaction vessels. Heating and cooling of the reaction chamber are controlled by alternating heated and ambient air. Due to the low mass of air and the high ratio of surface area to volume of the cuvettes, very rapid temperature exchange rates can be achieved within the LightCycler™ thermal chamber. Addition of selected fluorescent dyes to the reaction components allows the PCR to be monitored in real time and on-line. Furthermore, the cuvettes serve as an optical element for signal collection (similar to glass fiber optics), concentrating the signal at the tip of the cuvette. The effect is efficient illumination and fluorescent monitoring of microvolume samples.

Please amend the paragraph on page 18, lines 17-21 as follows:

In another embodiment, and ABI PRISM® 7700 Sequence Detection System (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) also is suitable for performing the methods described herein for detecting VZV. Information on PCR amplification and detection using an ABI PRISM® 770 system can be found on Applied Biosystems' website [[at <http://www.appliedbiosystems.com/products>]]. The present invention, however, is not limited by the configuration of a commercially available instrument.